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CONFIDENTIAL

57-0162

17 January 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT : Medical Evaluation of Dependents

1. It has been evident, with experience, that the effective performance of an employee stationed overseas may well be influenced by accompanying family situations. Considerable medical evidence exists as to the importance and meanings of family health, both physical and emotional, in overseas areas. The degree of medical evidence has prompted the Medical Staff on past occasions to make technical recommendations to operating components in regard the desirability of medically evaluating dependents prior to overseas assignment. Official reaction has been one of general appreciation of the advantages of such a procedure accompanied by a natural reluctance to accept additional qualifying procedures. Preoccupation with the more pressing problems of employee selection has deterred the Medical Staff from taking further action although some continuing thought has been given to screening techniques.

2. More recently, the Director has authorized the Agency's adoption of medical benefits for dependents as provided the Department of State in the amendment to the Foreign Service Act, 84th Congress. Among other things, such legislation provides for varying degrees of payment of costs of hospitalization of dependents. Payment of total hospitalization costs is provided when it is determined that the illness or injury is related to the conditions of overseas assignment. Payment of costs of hospitalization is provided up to one hundred and twenty (120) days for illnesses and injuries unrelated to overseas conditions, including pre-existing illnesses or injuries, according to a recent policy decision. The nature of these provisions is such as to require knowledge of the dependent's medical status prior to overseas assignment in order to make proper determinations as to causation. In addition, the degree of Agency interest in the medical qualifications of dependents as candidates for overseas experience has been thereby increased.

3. In view of the foregoing, it is recommended that the Agency adopt a policy of medically examining dependents prior to overseas assignment and that procedures pertinent thereto be established. In recognition of the scope of the problem and the degree of coordination required, this recommendation is forwarded directly to you for your decision as to the proper course of ensuing action.

SIGNED

CONFIDENTIAL

JOHN R. TIETJEN, M.D.

JOHN R. TIETJEN, M.D.
Chief, Medical Staff

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